



This issue is complimentary to new readers.

All others please do your duty and fill out the coupon on page 2. We depend on member support.

### Picking on a Skinny Cat

#### The World-Herald and the Field Club

by Mike Leahy

The author is a member of the Field Club area, and a resident of the area. He was at the first Douglas County Board meeting when the lease question came up.

He has observed many similar cases where leases of public land have been addressed, and believes that the Field Club's plan to buy--and later to lease--the land they now use would have been an uncontroversial outcome had the World-Herald not blown it out of proportion.

I am a Field Club member, and by that acclamation I admit my prejudice in the current flap over who should lease the County's land.

Night after night I see the Field Club made out in the World-Herald to be the fall guy in this political alternative to a Three Stooges comedy routine.

The Club made a bid, got wind of a higher bid, and legally made a second bid. Is it not reasonable for present tenants to have the right of first refusal?

Common sense (a lost commodity in this whole issue) would dictate that the County (and its local newspaper) would support an organization that has 1) improved the property, 2) served a need for a private club.

The Field Club, by the way, is not an exclusive, expensive, high-prestige, restricted membership club. Far from it! Rather, it is an organization with a vibrant social club that provides young families (old ones, too) with golf, swimming, and other social activities at a rate vastly less expensive than almost all other clubs in Omaha. The World-Herald, for reasons I don't understand, is picking on a skinny cat.

As for the politicians, they will never leave this issue alone until the World-Herald stops making it front page or editorial

news.

Their November 20 editorial and its many half truths finally revealed where their hearts were. In it they ask has "...the board ...considered buying other property in the city's older neighborhoods, leasing it to private owners at a nominal cost, and then sitting back and waiting for the neighborhood to stabilize." Their logic escapes me; no one is considering doing anything like this (unless I missed some discussion of putting in a sub-sidized golf course at 24th and Lake), it is not what happened in 1904 when the Field Club started, nor--since the club is already established and not starting out fresh--is such a projection being offered as a justification for the lease. Then, (1904) some newer homes existed to the east of the club, but none to the west. It was not an older neighborhood.

The club's stabilizing influence is that it has been there for years, homes have been built and a neighborhood created; if the club did not directly cause the stabilization, it certainly has been a factor. Since the County needed to lease the land anyway, it is

hard to imagine anyone being hurt then or now by leasing it to a good tenant.

For the Herald to imply that the County somehow funded the stabilization of the Field Club area is absolute misrepresentation. The Herald states "Publicly owned property should be used for the public good." If it really believes this, then why didn't it support selling the land--and thus subjecting it to taxation--an idea that was thrown out by the County when appraisals came in lower than expected? The answer is simple: because the Field Club would probably be the highest bidder, and for reasons I can't understand, that seems to be exactly what the Herald doesn't want.

It's really curious that the editorialist is upset that the club isn't paying \$93,000/yr, and yet it was the Herald's badgering of our County Board that created the flap in the first place: I doubt that County Attorney Ron Staskiewicz would have been so quick to throw out the first bid--necessitating a second, lower, bid--had not the World-Herald been screaming so loud.

continued, p. 7

### Inside

Investors get help,  
Farmers take their  
lumps.....2

Media Track.....3

Activist on  
Airwaves.....3

David Rice.....4

Donahue on Latin  
America.....6

Nebraska Aglow..8

### WHAMO MONITORS THE HERALD

WHAMO is a citizens' organization that keeps an eye on our favorite local daily. We have been around four years and have published a newsletter monthly for two years.

Whamo is for everybody. All of us are ordinary citizens. Most are also news junkies. A few are journalists by profession.



## WHAMO

PO BOX 31383 Omaha, NE 68131

Address Correction Requested

12/87

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OMAHA, NE  
PERMIT NO 1064

From the Des Moines Register's Ag Editor

## Helping Wall Street, Ignoring the Heartland

The World-Herald has been without an ag editor for many months now, and George Anthan is the kind of ag editor we wish they had. Whamo readers will recall that it was he who covered the stories about the poultry plant violations, including those by our own Con-agra.

by George Anthan  
Copyright 1987, Des Moines Register and Tribune. Reprinted by permission.

Washington, D.C. Farmers and the agricultural industrial and business complex can be forgiven if they're viewing with some bitterness the nation's reaction to the unpleasantness on Wall Street.

Suddenly, when stock market investors here and abroad demonstrated their lack of faith in the American economy by pulling their money out of equity markets, the nation's government and financial apparatus began to see--as if for the first time--the flaws in the Reagan revolution that for years have been dramatically demonstrated in the countryside.

The collapse of stock values has spurred the Federal Reserve to pump dollars into the system. It heard the cries of anguish from Wall Street.

But for years, the central bankers here and the big private controllers of wealth in New York were deaf to pleas from farmers to loosen up a bit on tight money as a way of helping them dig out from under

their debts, raise their depressed commodity prices and help them compete in overseas markets.

### BRANDED 'SPECULATORS'

The Federal Reserve, intent on keeping inflation under control, rejected agriculture's pleas as its former chief, Paul Volker, branded farmers as "speculators" for having borrowed too much money to buy high-priced land in the '70s.

But stock market investors who greedily pumped money into equities as prices spiraled upward at a dizzying rate before the predictable collapse haven't been officially dismissed as mere "speculators".

They're worthy of quick and sure government action.

It's not surprising, therefore, that throughout agriculture, and especially in the hard-hit Midwest, farmers and small-town folk are resentful. They've watched tens of thousands of families move off the land, shuffling off into towns and cities, often to other regions in search of work.

They've watched already declining small towns and local school districts fall another notch or two.

### CHOKED EXPORT MARKETS

Washington just wasn't listening as farmers cried for a little help in at

least moderating the strong-dollar policies that were choking off export markets and dismantling many agricultur-related and other industries of the Midwest.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported on a conversation between Nebraska's former Democratic governor, Bob Kerry, and a Republican legislator, who told Kerry: "It's just as we always thought. When Wall Street gets in trouble, they holler and get help."

The Agriculture Department's retired historian, Wayne Rasmussen, who has been repeating the old warning that American depressions are "farm led and farm fed", says "the decline of the stock market now, just as in 1929, is in part attributable to continuing problems in agriculture."

### INSUFFICIENT AID

The government's response to agriculture's 80s recession was to increase the flow of federal dollars to the sector, but such aid is inefficient, subject to abuse and quickly becomes a target for budget cutters.

Farmers, of course, played a role in their government-related troubles of recent years.

Forgetting through the '70s that easy money and some measure of inflation historically has aided them, farmers and their

lobbyists engaged in never-ending complaints until, by about 1981 when things really began deteriorating, they were being dismissed as in the old tale of the boy who cried "wolf"

They did forget the long-standing admonition against accruing more debt than was absolutely necessary, and many rushed to buy overpriced land.

Politically, they contributed to their problems by pushing legislation in 1981 that worsened their export competitiveness.

They voted twice for Ronald Reagan and for conservative Republicans who promised tax cuts aimed mainly at the more wealthy while emphasizing big increases in military spending, the least productive sector and of no fiscal benefit to agriculture.

Meanwhile, Reagan and his accomplices in Congress have bankrupted the United States, greatly reduced the government's ability to fight a future recession and set us up for a major cut in our standard of living as the only way to pay our foreign debts.

Agriculture, unfortunately, may suffer along with the rest of the economy for this period of profligacy. It will be of little comfort, as in the '30s, for farmers to watch the rest of us join them.

continued, p. 7

New to WHAMO? Use this coupon to get on our permanent list

Put me on your list of WHAMO supporters!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Morning W-H ☐ Eve & Sunday

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I read:

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Eve \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to receive the newsletter, and since I know the Kiewit Foundation didn't give you a grant this year, I'll help out with a donation.\*

☐ I can't manage a large donation, but I promise to brag about WHAMO to all my friends; please send me the newsletter.

☐ Count me in for some donated labor.

☐ I want to monitor news about

☐ I know how to use Appleworks (or some other data base) and can help with the mailing list.

☐ I am pretty good at layout and production,

☐ I like to draw cartoons.

Deadline for articles for January newsletter:

Outlines....Dec. 28

Final Draft...Jan. 2

\*Survival Outlook:

WHAMO needs to average \$20/yr. from all its members who are employed

WHAMO P.O. Box 31383 Omaha, NE 68131 551-2629

by Frank Duntze

### A GOOD SPORT

Whamo's editor-in-chief asked me to keep an eye on the W-H Sports pages, and on Mike Kelly, whom she seemed to suspect of committing good journalism. After faithfully reading Kelly's column for a couple of months, I agree. Being a native Miamian, first, and Floridian, second, and thusly a U. of Miami and Florida State partisan, I am immune to Big Redicitis, and hardly likely to evaluate Kelly on the basis of appropriate Husker Homage.

Kelly has tackled, responsibly, the issues and instances of Husker delinquency, and other stories reflecting negatively on UNL sports.

His prose is clear, intelligent, and non-hyperbolic, which is fortunate for a paper so often mistaking NU football for the Second Coming. Kelly is obviously aware of the potential threats to his integrity; he quoted Sports Illustrated editor Frank DeFord (11/5) thusly: "Can you imagine what it's like to be the football writer in Lincoln, Neb., if you want to write something negative or honest? That's the hardest assignment going." The second hardest, by a red

whisker, is to hold the same job in Omaha.

Kelly does occasionally like to puckishly turn a phrase or two (three, four...). For instance, in the 11/15 column in three consecutive sentences: "Playing their (Oklahoma's) first game with Charles in Charge," then "Thompson (replacing) Hollieway was swell, but was not Jamelle." And, "to add injury to injury, the OU Coach hurt his knee..." Clever, but not too; and as long as he doesn't get addicted to this sort of thing, bearable.

And, while we're not sure it could be said, regarding praise from Whamo, "Mikey likes it," (we already know Woody and Andy don't) we like Mikey.

### SCHOOLYARD SLUR

It always hurts to see your hero--or, as Maya Angelou would surely say, "shero"--slip up. But slip she did, we're sorry to comment.

Attempting to exchange some of that "happy news" snappy patter, KETV anchor Carol Schrader, responding to a clarifying comment by meteorologist Jim Flowers, unshipped, on air, the school-yard slur "Indian-giver..." I've no doubt whatsoever Schrader's remark was not premeditated, was simply the surfacing of

a long-dormant, but unfortunately undisconnected, association, inspired by playfulness.

The truth is, from what we know of Schrader, there are probably few non-native Americans in Omaha more aware of the stupidity of the phrase "Indian-giver" (and the reality that, if we are talking about reneging on promises, the phrase should be Paleface-giver). Schrader is a caring, concerned and gentle woman, in the best senses of those words, and a professional. She has demonstrated these attributes, not only on the air but through her contribution of time and effort to this community. We think she's great, so we'd like to--along with the reluctantly bestowed "Open Mouth Change Feet" prize--present Carol Schrader with a repeatedly earned "Warm Fuzzy" Award.

Enough nice talk. Time to finish up this column by trashing someone.

### HORRIBLE GERALDO

Just when you thought it was safe to watch a talk show again...Here comes "Geraldo," master of the contrived controversy and the self-administered ego massage.

If Phil Donahue (once

and still the best at his craft) is "over-sensitive," here is the antidote. Rivera is aware, or at least considerate, of individuals' sensitivities in the way a Bengal tiger is aware of its lunch time victim.

Where Donahue works his audience and panelists like an inspired orchestra conductor, Rivera on his better days, is more the vainglorious matador, his suit of lights reflecting the assumedly adoring and fascinated images of the crowd at the corrida. Sometimes, though Geraldo becomes the smarmy, grating, fawning sidewhow impresario (picture his mustache, as in some old animated cartoon, curling and uncurling by itself, and the calculating smile of his eye).

Rivera, unlike Oprah, tries to tackle controversial Donahue-type topics. But while Phil generally tries to reduce tension and lead panelists out of embarrassments, Geraldo has a tendency to do the reverse. This can make his program embarrassing to watch.

Rivera has defended his histrionic immersion in the issues he has covered as uniquely revelatory. In fact, he simply mistakes intensity and passion for objectivity and elucidation.

## Activists Take to the Airwaves

by Mark Schultz  
the Progressive, 9/87  
Ithaca, New York

Its original name said it all. When John Efroyson and Malinda Runyon came up with the idea of producing their local news show, they thought they'd call it *What's Left of the News*.

Their idea was to give viewers the stories behind the headlines, from a frankly progressive angle, a here's-what-you-can-do-about-it angle. Eventually, they opted for them more succinct but still accurate *More Than the News*, and their idea is a success. Ithaca's activist, cable-access news show recently celebrated its first birthday and shows no signs of slowing down.

The half-hour show airs live on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm (with a rerun later the same night to catch additional viewers). Although it looks like mainstream news, even a glance tells the viewer this is different.

Co-anchor Mary Jo Dudley sets the tone in the first minute, looking straight into the camera and telling the audience that *More Than the News* doesn't aim for objectivity, that it takes a stand and urges viewers to do the same.

One of the show's longest running stories concerned the disintegration of the union at the Cargill salt mine in nearby Lansing. The workers had gone out on strike to protest management's latest contract proposal and had been replaced by scabs. When Runyon, the other co-anchor, finished interviewing union spokesman Neil Watson, she ended by asking the miner what the community could do to support the strikers.

Although they can't be sure how many people are actually watching, Efroyson says a recent study by some college students found that 5 per cent of the people surveyed had seen the show at least once. "We felt that was kind of low," he says. Since then, they've beefed up the publicity, including signs

on every bus in the city.

How much influence--if any--the upstart news show has is the bigger question. On my better days, Efroyson says, "I say yes. On my worse days, I say no. I really felt frustrated with the Cargill situation. There wasn't a lot we could do, other than make the workers feel good that they were getting some publicity. But it didn't get their jobs back."

The making of the program is as progressive as its content. Each week, a group of volunteers meets to critique the latest show and discuss ideas for the next one. Decisions are made by consensus.

Meetings of the show's collective are intense, as members shoot ideas back and forth. A recent one found them planning stories on the start of labor negotiations for the 900-member United Auto Workers local at Cornell, Ithaca's

major employer; local efforts by the Tomkins County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and the school board's vote on renewing the superintendent's contract.

Still, for all the long hours and headaches of working on a shoestring budget--Efroyson estimates each show costs about \$15 to produce--members feel their work is important.

"Even though we work really hard," says Runyon, "we don't get burned out because we feel this is a really exciting vehicle that we're learning and mastering, and it's exciting."

"There are a lot of people out there who are committed to social change," she continues. "If you begin to look beyond the walls of your house, if your vision at all goes into the future, then you have some commitment to that future. We all have things we want to change."

# Does Nebraska Have a Political Prisoner?

## Profile of Panther David Rice, "Mondo"

by A.B. "Buddy" Hogan

The author is president of the Omaha Chapter of the NAACP

On August 17, 1970, police were lured to a vacant house by a call to 911. The caller claimed that a woman was screaming.

Shortly after the police arrived, a booby-trapped suitcase exploded, killing one policeman and wounding others.

In the weeks that followed, a fifteen-year-old African youth, Duane Peak, confessed to setting the bomb and eventually was forced (by threat of death in Nebraska's electric chair) to implicate Black Panther Leaders David Rice and Ed Poindexter, as well as others. Rice is now serving a life sentence in the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln.

In April of 1971, a jury convicted Rice and Poindexter of first-degree murder. None of the several other persons implicated by Peak was ever tried. And within weeks of the conviction, Peak pleaded guilty to "juvenile delinquency."

Many in Omaha's white mainstream are unaware of David Rice's story. Rice, who, since he has been imprisoned has taken the name Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, "Mondo" for short, has, from the time of his arrest until now, maintained that he had no responsibility in the killing for which he was convicted, and that his trial and conviction were products of an effort by the Omaha Police Department, the Douglas County Attorney's Office, and the FBI both to destroy Omaha's Black Panther Party, and to quiet his voice specifically.

Mondo's claim of innocence and insistence that he is a political prisoner have been supported by such persons and groups as Amnesty International's West German adoption group (assigned to the Rice-Poindexter case), Angela Davis, and Dan Berrigan. Evidence obtained since the trial, some through the Freedom of Information Act, supports the claim that Mondo is, in fact, a political prisoner.

### At The Time of The Arrest

In the summer of 1970, Mondo was Deputy Minister of Information for the Omaha chapter of the National Committee to Combat Fascism (the organizing arm of the Black Panther Party); cochairperson of Ward II of the Democratic Party in Omaha and a member of the

Nebraska Democratic Central Committee; one of the rotating chairpersons for the Omaha Ad Hoc Education Planning Committee, a group addressing problems of racism and related issues in the Omaha public school system; editor of *Freedom by Any Means Necessary*, the newsletter of the Omaha NCCF chapter; active worker with Mothers for Adequate Welfare, a local welfare rights group. He was employed by Greater Omaha Community Action, an "anti-poverty" agency.

Functioning in these various capacities, Mondo was a frequent subject of police harassment, generally consisting of arrests on petty and often contrived traffic charges, charges of such heinous offenses as "failure to disperse" and "disturbing the peace" in connection with various public protests.

Prior to his arrest in connection with the August, 1970, police killing, Mondo had never been arrested or charged with any felony, with the exception of an arrest by federal agents for refusing induction into the military.

In addition to being subjected to these arrests, he was confronted with frequent police surveillance and threats. Moreover, he, along with a number of other NCCF members and State Senator Ernie Chambers, were called

## Mondo on W-H coverage

FGM

W.M.E. we Langa, formerly known as David Rice, believes he was framed in his 1971 murder trial. At the time, it was common to see editorials in the World-Herald about the inherent criminality in Panthers, and about their links to Peking. Contacted by Whamo, Rice was asked to comment about the coverage he has gotten from the paper.

In the first place, Rice said, the primary witness for the prosecution fifteen year old fellow Panther Duane Peak, changed his story, but the paper mentioned only his final version of events. Peak's first version had it that Rice and Poindexter had told Peak to place the bomb. His second version said that they had showed him how to make the bomb. Finally, he testified that Rice and Poindexter had made the bomb and given it to him.

No one knows where Duane Peak is now. For his testimony, he was granted immunity, and later was treated to a "new identity" by the FBI. Efforts to find him have failed, and this leads some to speculate that he may now be dead.

Mondo also recalls numerous "Killer Rice" headlines, especially prominent at the time of his appeal to the Supreme Court four years ago.

Rice has some regrets about the way his defense

was handled, as well as how the media covered the trial. The lawyer, he recalls, did a good job on the "search and seizure" issue, but not on whether he was originally framed.

Some important concepts not well presented by the trial or the media:

1. That the chief witness was lying.

2. That the state withheld evidence. E.g., the tape of the call made to 911. Fourteen years after the trial, the tape that the FBI claimed had been lost, was found. The voice on it was obviously not Rice's nor Poindexter's.

3. That then deputy chief county attorney Arthur O'Leary encouraged perjury.

Instructions given by O'Leary to Peak were recorded and these documents have been obtained by the defense. Rice recalled these lines: "It doesn't make one bit of difference whether or not you leave out facts." And, "It's not important that you tell the truth."

Currently, efforts to free Rice rest on a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. He feels that the World-Herald has generally portrayed him as guilty, and trying to beat the case on a technicality.

Rice has had some positive publicity on his recent play, "Different Dances," which looks at

continued, p. 7



FGM

David Rice, who now goes by Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa, describes some of his Africa-inspired art at a prison exhibit he helped organize November 17.

Mondo's manner was anything but grim, although this photo caught him in a serious posture. It is clear that the reality of life behind bars has not robbed him of his self-expression.



# Media, politicians create 'black racism' apparition

by W.M.E. we Langa  
Special Correspondent to the  
Lincoln Journal 6/30/87  
Reprinted by permission of  
the author.

In a post-game interview following his team's loss to the Boston Celtics in the recently concluded N.E.A. playoffs, the Detroit Pistons' Isiah Thomas said to a reporter of Larry Bird that, were he black, he'd just be another good player.

That remark, which was really more a comment on racism in the media than on the abilities of Larry Bird, brought the proverbial "house" down. Sports commentators and other media persons were outraged. Isiah's comment was compared to Al Campanis' statement about blacks not having the "sensitivities" (whatever that is) to fill management positions in professional baseball, was cited as evidence of "black racism" and was otherwise attacked.

This past week, on a Phil Donahue show devoted to discussion of the Bernard Goetz verdict, an American born African judge, Bruce White, rather emphatically suggested that racism played a major role in the jury's failure to find Goetz guilty of anything other than illegal possession of a weapon. A nearly middle-aged Caucasian woman in the audience, obviously irritated, shouted to the judge that he was a black racist.

The above are but two of numerous examples of what has become an increasingly popular trend in this country-- accusing African persons who are critical of any of several of America's sacred cows of being black racists. While many of the people who follow this trend are simply operating out of ignorance, it is unlikely that everyone who has used the term "black racist" does not know what racism is and/or is simply a sloppy user of the English language.

Racism is not the mere dislike by one person or group of another because of his or her color and/or nationality. Rather, racism is a system of thought

whereby a given nationality believes itself superior, by nature, to people of another nationality and desires to subjugate those people.

Moreover, racism is a system of practice by which the racist group actually employs means to maintain both the life of the racist concept and a power (economic, political, etc.) relationship in which the inferior group is made to remain in an inferior position.

No amount of innovative rhetoric can alter the fact that African people in this country are not in a position of power to practice racism on an institutional level. We do not own or control the resources by which we might keep Caucasians out of work, stuck in inferior schools, or otherwise maintained in a position of inferior status.

But, as importantly, while African people in the United States may be bitter toward Caucasians because of past and present injustices, the idea of an American-born African being racist is ludicrous in the main because of a very fundamental reality: Racist attitudes are taught.

Not even in the so-called "black church" is God portrayed as African. It is not African people who are typically portrayed in the media as being superior to all others, as constituting the standard of beauty which all others are to emulate, who provide the vast majority of images by which the collective American psyche is formed. It is not the history, literature, music, etc. of African people that are taught in the U.S. public school system in such a manner and to such an extent that the lives and experiences of other people are made to look insignificant.

Generally speaking, there is no "black racism" in this country; and the creation, by journalists and politicians, of this apparition appears to be nothing more than a systematic effort to give equivancy to acts of racism and African people's reactions to them.

to testify before a federal grand jury investigating the very un-secret Vivian Strong Liberation School for Children, which was run by the local NCCF chapter and for which Mondo was an instructor.

## In Prison

Despite imprisonment, Mondo has not lost his commitment to radical change. Nor has his creative spirit been stifled. He has, for the past seven years, worked as a paid special correspondent for the Lincoln Journal writing a monthly column addressing a wide range of political and social issues (See "Media, politicians create 'black racism' apparition," page).

For more than eight years, he has been the editor of the Harambee Flame, the monthly newsletter of the prison-based Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization, and has been the education co-chairman of that organization for most or those years. He is currently the group's chairman.

His poems have appeared in more than thirty literary magazines and journals and five books

of his poems have been published.

Mondo paints and does wood sculpture and has had several exhibits of his work in Nebraska and Iowa. Most recently, on November 17 he and other prisoners presented an exhibit of their work to the public.

In addition to writing poems and essays, he writes short stories and plays. A play he wrote recently, "Different Dances," which addresses issues related to teenage pregnancy, opened at the Roger Furman New Heritage Theatre in Harlem in August of 1986 and has had several showings in Omaha.

In connection with various prisoner organization programs, Mondo has both composed and performed dances, blending elements from tribal African, modern, and "jazz" elements; played his own compositions on guitar; and performed in the play, "Shake-down Blues," a piece written by Mondo and other members of a prison theatre group.

Mondo is featured in two books, Black Men and Women of Nebraska, by Donna Mays Polk and Black Nebraskans, by Alonzo Smith.

## Criticizing Police Medal of Valor Award

The author, a minister at the Second Unitarian Church in Omaha, is involved in both the Greater Omaha Clergy Association and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. He reads the World-Herald evening edition faithfully, as well as the weekend editions.

by Carl M. Schmitthausler

I cannot resist calling the editors of the W-H to task for a deliberate effort to cause the general reader to believe that the Watson affair (Kevin Watson, a young black, was killed by police officers following a high speed chase) generated criticism only from "some blacks" (see article, 11/2).

It can be demonstrated from the record that from the Beginning, criticisms were publicly voiced by both blacks and whites.

Both black and white ministers were present at a first meeting with the mayor. At the first meeting, the members of the Interdenominational Alliance and members of the

Greater Omaha Clergy Association made several specific recommendations to the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety.

My greatest concern in regard to these distortions and the omission of information is that the reading public may be kept unaware of the unhealthy state of race relations in Omaha. Ministers and other responsible persons of all ethnic and racial groups in Omaha are concerned by what appears to be a crying need for appropriate training of police officers, by the apparent predilection of officers (usually white) to engage in "hot pursuit" and other forms of harassment of blacks, especially in North Omaha.

# Latin America through the W-H lens

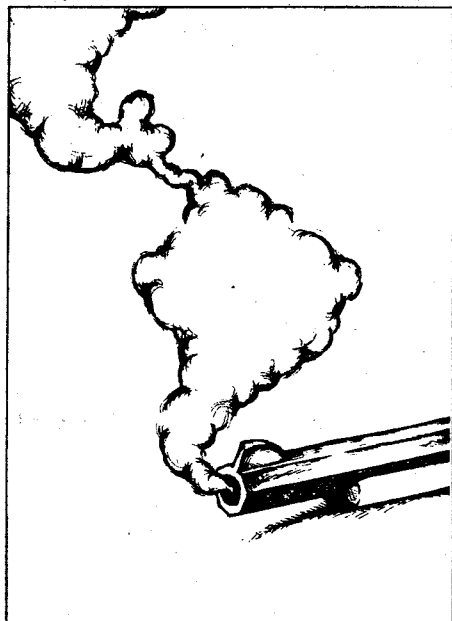
by Gene Donahue, S.J.  
The author is an associate professor of theology at Creighton University. He visited Central America in 1984 and 1985.

On October 29, the World-Herald devoted its "Focus" section to the Peace Accord in Central America, and we can be grateful for that coverage as well as other news articles since then. The latter, however, have been primarily focused on Nicaragua and El Salvador, and we have not learned very much about how the procedure for regional peace (inaccurately, but frequently, called the "Arias peace plan") signed by the five Central American presidents in August is being implemented in Honduras or Guatemala. This is significant, since the mechanism calls for "simultaneous" implementation in all countries, not unilateral steps by only some parties.

Whose "man" is Arias?

The W-H encourages only criticism, not praise, of Nicaragua, so that when Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez complained the Sandinistas were not negotiating with the contras, the W-H (October 31) praised him for being "his own man." The W-H did not mention, however, that the Peace Accord signed by Arias and the other Presidents does not require the Sandinistas (or any government in the region) to negotiate with armed insurgents, but only with "unarmed" opponents. Hence Arias was publicly saying something quite different from what he had signed.

Rather than being "his own man" in this matter, Arias' complaints about Nicaragua indicate that the pressure exerted on him by the U.S. government is having its effect. This "pressure" includes suspending economic assistance to Costa Rica, imposing import restrictions on Costa Rican products, and failing to support further commercial bank loans to that country (all this and more is reported from Costa Rica by Martha Honey and Tony Avirgan in the Sept. 12 issue of The Nation).



## The Marchetti Lecture

Another perspective on the role of the U.S. in Central America was available to the Omaha area on Nov. 12, when the Rev. Peter Marchetti, S.J., spoke at Creighton University. The W-H did send a reporter to cover Marchetti's lecture, but the following morning's article was too brief to do justice to what some there said was the best analysis they'd ever heard.

Marchetti, an Omaha native, has a Ph.D. in political sociology from Yale, and he's been working in Nicaragua since 1980, primarily with agricultural reform on behalf of the United Nations. While he and other Jesuits there expected the new Sandinista government to be quite Marxist in its orientation, they have been pleasantly surprised by its openness to religion and to Catholicism in particular (the religion of most of the population). Under the Sandinistas, the Catholic University in Managua has become central to the educational process, such that anyone wanting to study journalism, law, or most other disciplines must attend the Catholic institution.

Marchetti also pointed out that from a Latin American perspective, the attitude of the Reagan administration toward the peace efforts exerted by the Contadora nations (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia) and its Support Group (Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Peru) has not only been obstructive, but sometimes

insulting. These eight major nations agreed in January, 1986, that the U.S. should be part of the peace process in Central America. Our special envoy, Philip Habib, then flew to numerous countries saying that this proposal was not acceptable to the United States.

When leaders from these same eight nations came to Washington and asked to meet President Reagan, they were told he did not "have time." In the same week, however, Reagan met three times with leaders of the Contras. This cavalier dismissal of Latin democracies in favor of mercenaries was simply a gratuitous insult.

Marchetti also explained that the peace procedure signed in August was an attempt by the five civilian presidents to gain control over their own respective military establishments. This is especially the case in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador which did not have civilian presidents when the Sandinistas ousted Somoza. The U.S. told their governing military regimes to have some elections so that it could

support the "democracies" in the region, while striving to oust the Sandinistas. Recent attempts by the presidents to dialogue with guerrillas in Guatemala and El Salvador have disturbed the military there, and it is not at all clear that such dialogue will succeed.

## Rewriting U.S.- Nicaragua Relations.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has arranged to dialogue with the contras (even though they are still being supplied by the U.S. in violation of the August peace agreement). The W-H editorial of Nov. 14 rewrites history to say that it was only because Ortega "spurned [President] Carter's offer of friendship" in 1979 that Nicaragua "is torn by civil war," and now "must negotiate."

Whatever warmth Carter may have shown Ortega in 1979 was tempered by the cold facts that Carter had supported Somoza until his regime's collapse was imminent, and then the U.S. had striven mightily to

## Democracy in El Salvador?

### SOME BACKGROUND

by Gene Donahue

The political situation in El Salvador is much more volatile than in Nicaragua, where opposition political parties have been free to operate even in wartime, and the return of Ruben Zamora and Guillermo Ungo to their native El Salvador in late November marks an important test of the democratization process in that country.

Duarte's recent charge about D'Aubisson's responsibility for the slaying of Archbishop Romero have alienated him from the right wing. President Duarte's remarks about Zamora and Ungo possibly being sent by the left to be "martyred" by their own people is an ominous repetition of his similar comment after the October murder of Herbert Anaya, head of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission. Bob Woodward's

recent book, Veil, states that Duarte has been a CIA "asset" since 1980 and such public remarks give further credence to this claim. Ironically, Duarte himself may now have a new need for protection against the right wing now that he has begun legal proceedings against d'Aubisson.

Footnote on an editorial: the W-H complained in their 11/16 editorial that the amnesty program in El Salvador had gone "too far" since it called for the release of those responsible for the slaying of six North Americans. It noted approvingly that "Some of the other countries" in the region have distinguished prisoners guilty of criminal acts from those simply in political disfavor, but it could not bring itself to mention that Nicaragua was one of those very countries.

prevent the Sandinistas from gaining political power.

And it was not, as the W-H says, because Nicaragua had "been so eager to invite the Soviet bloc countries to send aid and advisers" that "a long, friendly relationship with the United States" did not evolve. It was Nicaragua's desire to chart a sovereign, non-aligned course that got it into trouble.

Believing that the success of the guerrilla movement in neighboring El Salvador would help solidify its own nascent revolution, Nicaragua chose (in late 1980) to support the anti-government forces there. Fearing what might happen under the incoming Reagan administration, Nicaragua allowed the shipment of Cuban arms to El Salvador across its territory. This drew the ire of the United States. Even though Nicaragua backed down and halted this flow of arms by March (according to the U.S. State Dept.) or by April, 1981 (according to our ambassador in Nicaragua, Lawrence Pezzullo), the U.S. never resumed its aid to Nicaragua, its rhetoric against the Sandinistas grew harsher, and efforts at negotiations failed due to too mutual misunderstanding and the hostility of the U.S. (Details on all this can be found in the Center for International Policy's Dec. 1983 Report,

"U.S.-Nicaragua Talks: Going Through the Motions.")

As for the W-H's description of Nicaragua's conflict as a "civil war," even the Wall Street Journal (not noted for leftist leanings) informed its readers on Nov. 16 that "Most Nicaraguan exiles in the U.S. don't actively support the Contras, the guerrilla force that the Reagan administration is backing to oust the regime the exiles fled." Instead, most exiles remain aloof from what they see as a movement corrupted by U.S. funding, controlled by the CIA, and torn by old family feuds.

Finally, the W-H called Reagan's decision not to "ask Congress for contra aid until January" a "step toward accommodation," and some kind of concession toward Nicaragua. Perhaps the editorial page editors should read their Focus page on the peace accord, where the L.A. Times noted that Reagan had been urged to withhold military aid to the contras by the Presidents of El Salvador and Honduras, our closest allies in the region. Not only would such aid by contrary to the peace plan, but the request would also face "almost certain defeat on Capitol Hill." This is hardly a concession, but rather a (rare) acknowledgment of some realities in Central America and here.

Field Club, from p. 1

"Sweetheart deal," as the editorial headline calls it, is so pejorative that it implies unethical behavior. Why can't the World-Herald be fair? objective? The \$52,000/month bid was a good deal for the club, but all the rules were followed, and the drop from the previous figure of \$93,000 partly reflected the inclusion of the value of improvements which the club legally would have to be compensated for. The Field Club didn't force other bidders to stay away.

Not once in print have I seen positive statements

about how the land has been properly maintained and improved. Or how the club serves a need for a modestly priced private club. Or how the club has never been a bad tenant. In fact, the only point of view the news-writers and editorialist seem to know about is that of Field Club opponents--I cannot recall even one Field Club resident or member ever being interviewed.

The Herald never answered the real question: Why shouldn't a good tenant, who cooperates with the landlord, and generates taxable employment be given the right of first refusal?

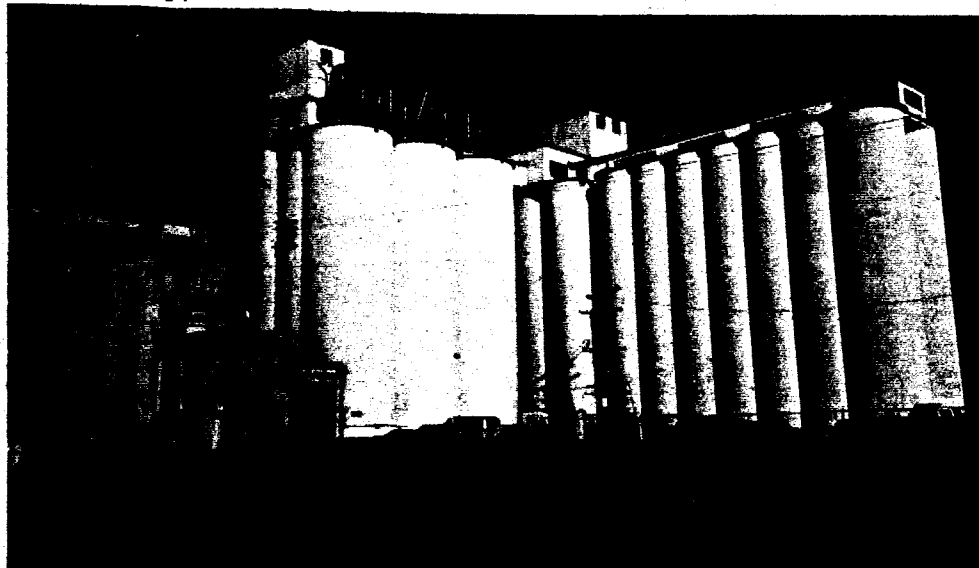
Mondo on media, from p. 4

problems related to teenage pregnancy. The play is primarily addressed to American-born Africans, but

not to them exclusively. The message: your value comes from within, and also that you should be able to look to family and community for affirmation.

Anyone seen any ugly brick buildings?

Andrew Sullivan was driving on North 16th, thinking about the buildings in the Jobbers' Canyon, and recalling that ConAgra CEO Mike Harper considered them ugly. When, what to his wondering eyes did appear but this "delight" to the eye. Andrew sent this photo, captioned "Ugly Brick Building," of course.



And speaking of architecture, we all know that the entire downtown area was given a "blighted" designation by the Planning Board to make way for Riverfront development (i.e., ConAgra). Below is an example of the kind of building in the area.



## Media Values in a Season of Peace

Hyping war toys has got to be near the top of the list of offenses against the spirit of the holidays, and this years advertising promises more of the same.

In London, Ontario, after local merchants refused to stop selling war

toys last year, activists bought every one they could find. Then, after Christmas, all the toys were returned with the proper receipts forcing the shopkeepers to refund the activists' money.



## Let's Think Glowingly of Nebraska

by Don Walton  
the Lincoln Star  
11/16/87

reprinted by permission

Low-level radioactive waste. I'm not sure what that means, but I think I'll pass.

It sorta has the ring of "being a little pregnant" to me.

Or coming down with a slight case of a terminal disease.

I think as long as the dental assistant who X-rays my teeth feels the need to cower out of sight behind a flak jacket, I'll treat the lowest-level radioactive waste with at least as much respect.

Nebraska apparently is high on the list of prospects for location of a five-state storage site for the stuff. Ain't it nice to be wanted?

Now we know how proud Jesse James must have felt.

Like the anonymous guy said before he was hanged: "If it wasn't for honor, I think I'd decline."

Now, let's get one thing straight: It's not a dump. They don't like you to say "dump". That has a bad connotation. As in garbage.

Garbage. Yuck. No one wants mere garbage to be located next door. This is high-class, upscale, state-of-the-arts stuff.

I hope that description is glowing enough.

I guess the facility must be second prize in the scramble for US West.

Third prize probably is a nuclear weapons test site.

Some towns out west apparently want the waste facility, proving that Nebraska's new frenzy for economic development knows

no bounds. Hey, we said we were serious, didn't we?

There's an encouraging new development in terms of state unity at work in this process too.

Omaha and Lincoln, often accused of being bully boys in the fight for new business and industry, have shown remarkable brotherly restraint for once. They've stood gallantly aside and said to their smaller neighbors, "This one's for you".

Beside, in Lincoln, we're having enough trouble just now with a landfill.

Come to think of it, there might be some big economic benefite to us if we could lure that nuclear weapons test site away from Nevada while we're at it.

The we could have it all out here: -bombers, missiles, nuclear weapons, nuclear waste, and the ultimate: nuclear explosions.

A nuclear family. And they accuse us of being backwards?

Think of the investment. The employment. An a new slogan.

"Nuke Nebraska?--we already did".

"Nebraska: where the East peters out-and how!"

Those certainly are more appealing than Calvin Trillin's new suggestion for Nebraska license plates: "Nebraska: a long way across"

Maybe the feds, who mandated the creation of regional facilities, might decide they owe us this one. It could sort of make up for the sharp loss of federal farm subsidies that is about to begin. As long as we aren't going to be using the land anyway, you know.

So why not? Go ahead.

Send us your radioactive waste. Uh, I'm not sure just how you do that-but let's not get bogged down in little details when a new industry is at stake.

After all, an official from the company that would develop and operate the facility quite properly pointed out last week that low-level radioactive waste disposal too often becomes an emotional issue.

Hey, he's right. The more we think about it, the more likely we are going to get emotional.

So, let's just look at it as another regional exchange.

Sometimes we send our kids to universities in neighboring states. Now they can send us their radioactive waste in exchange.

What we need to do is get on the the task of choosing a name. We could call it something like the Environ- mental Safety Site, perhaps. Or, it could just have a sign on the building that says something simple like: Danger. Run Away. Run Away."

Or, we could name it in honor of a famous Nebraskan. Most of them like to have buildings named after them.

If it ends up in the 3rd Congressional District, I suppose we could call it the Virginia Smith Low-Level Radioactive Waste Facility. In case, out of modesty, she should defer that honor, we could name it for someone else famous. Maybe a president. Or, better yet, in Nebraska, a secretary of agriculture. Perhaps we could have Nebraska farmers vote to choose which one.

## Standing Corrected

The World-Herald doesn't seem to do its share of headline bloopers, and we admit, we have been watching. Some papers treat their readers to the likes of:

"Vatican Unveils Procreation Position"

--Cortland, N.Y. Standard

"Research fans hope for spinal injuries"

--Vancouver Sun

"Dr. Ruth Talks About Sex With Newspaper Editors"

--Rutland, Vt. Herald

We did, however, get a small smirk from a good one on the Midlands page of our favorite local daily, the second week of November:

"State Museum to Present Scientists Behind Exhibits."

Then, just in time for Thanksgiving, a headline that at first glance made us think that at last the W-H had figured out that there was something lacking in the quality of our current presidential leadership. Alas, a careful reading revealed that the turkey referred to was the one in the middle.



**This Turkey Causes No Flap**

*Yes, you have to . . .*

Yes, you have to fill out the coupon on page 2 to be on WHAMO's permanent mailing list (unless you're Harold Andersen or Woody Howe--they get Whamo regardless). Calling us up is fine, but you also have to send in the coupon to get the computer's attention.

That goes for renewing members too. All we ask of you is to hear from you once a year. So fill out that coupon or no more Whamos.